

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 3-5, 7- 9, 11 and 12, leaves claims 2, 6 and 10 unchanged and adds new claims 13-36. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-36.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the drawings, particularly Figs. 1, 9, 12 and 13, being that the Examiner alleges that the drawings contain improper hyphenated words. Proposed Drawing Corrections are filed on even date herewith. The Proposed Drawing Corrections represented elimination of the hyphenated words. Upon filing the Formal Drawing the words previously hyphenated will be set forth on a line in its entirety or hyphenated at the proper location. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn. Approval of the Proposed Drawing Corrections is respectfully requested.

The title of the invention stands objected to as not being descriptive. The title of the invention was changed to "CIRCUIT SIMULATION METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING OPERATIONAL SIMULATIONS OF ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS BASED ON STORED CIRCUIT MODELS ACCESSIBLE BY AUTHORIZATION" which Applicants submit is descriptive of the present invention. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Various amendments were made throughout claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Burrows (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,117). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1-12 are not taught or suggested by Burrows whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Amendments were made to independent claims 1, 5 and 9 so as to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a circuit simulation method, apparatus and computer program product wherein a storage area in a server is classified into regions accessible according to particular predefined authorizations. In order to understand these features of the present invention the Examiner's attention is directed to paragraphs 0053 and 0054 of the Substitute Specification. In these paragraphs it is described that the storage area is divided into a plurality of areas which include a region for holding mounting rules such as noise budgets, a region for holding simulation circuit connection models and a region for holding device transistor models and device models received from the circuit design engineering party. Unique according to the present invention is that these regions are configured in a manner such that only predetermined individuals having authorization can access and alter the content of these regions. For example, the authority to access and alter the contents of these regions may be granted to either the server manager or a program which carries out data processing in the server. These features are clearly not taught or suggested by any of the references of

record, particularly Burrows, whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

The present invention further provides an example of the authorization to access or alter the contents of a particular region in paragraph 0059 of the Substitute Specification. In this paragraph, it is described that a device model can be sent from a circuit design engineering party (chip-set manufacturer) who is authorized to store information regarding device models in the region for holding said device models. Thus, the circuit design engineering party can access the region for holding the device models as per their authorization. Further, according to the present invention, user-specific simulation model data can be temporarily stored in the server so as to permit a simulation calculation to be performed on data other than existent model data pre-registered in the server. As per the present invention, a user account (user name) and password are attached to the user-specific simulation model data in the server for limiting accessibility thereto. Thus, as per the present invention the user-specific simulation model data can be protected against unauthorized access from a third party.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Burrows. Burrows merely describes a distributed computer aided design (CAD) system having a CAD server station and one or more CAD client stations remote from the CAD server station but connectable thereto via a communications medium. The distributed CAD system as taught by Burrows allows for the design and simulation of circuit models. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Burrows wherein the data of circuit

models are stored in a storage which is accessible based on predefined authorization as in the present invention.

Thus, Burrows fails to teach or suggest receiving circuit data at a second information processing apparatus connected with the network, wherein the second information processing apparatus is so arranged that circuit models describing electronic circuit operations are stored therein to enable operational simulation and wherein the circuit models are stored in a storage accessible based on predefined authorization as recited in the claims. Therefore, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Burrows whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 1-12 as allegedly being anticipated by Burrows is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 13-36 which variously depend from claims 1-12. Thus, the same arguments presented above with respect to claims 1-12 apply as well to the potential use of Burrows and any of the references of record to reject the new dependent claims 13-36. Accordingly, the features of the present invention as recited in claims 13-36 are not taught or suggested by Burrows whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-12.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-36 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-36 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.40846X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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